

## **TICKET TO UNDERSTANDING: IMMERSED IN THE CULTURE OF TAIWAN**

2017 CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM

PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY – THAI-CHINESE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (TCIS)

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*TCIS students arrived in Taoyuan International Airport*

As a response to the recent national southbound policy, Providence University invited students from Thai-Chinese International School (TCIS), St. Gabriel College, Eastern Asia University, Thai-Taiwan Technological College, Chulalongkorn University and Bangkok University, Thailand to visit the university as a part of the newly established Cultural Immersion Program. The group spent 10 days in Taichung, where the university is located, for language and culture immersion experience. From October 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, TCIS students stayed in a lodging close to the university, attended classes, and participated in excursions organized by the university. Students were given the opportunity to learn about the rich culture of Taiwan and experience the culture firsthand through the program.

For 5 days, students were brought to Providence University to attend some classes. In Mandarin Language Class, students got to acquaint themselves with traditional Chinese characters and learn how to make basic conversation in Chinese. A qualified teacher was appointed to the class to make sure students found it enjoyable and encourage further learning. Besides the language class, students also got the chance to attend various cultural courses to learn more about the rich heritage of Taiwan. Students were not only able to listen to lectures related to Taiwanese culture, but they could also do some interesting activities related to the topic covered in class. After class, students were encouraged to use their free time to explore the city and go shopping.



*Students attended Chinese Language Class at Providence University*



During the weekend, the group was brought to famous tourist places near the city for sightseeing. On Saturday, students went on a trip to Lukang Old Street where various old shops and famous temples were located. On Sunday, they paid a visit to the infamous Sun Moon Lake in Nantou. Besides enjoying the view of the largest lake in Taiwan, students could also walk around the market located nearby.

*City tour around Taichung*

To wrap up the cultural trip, the school organized a farewell party for the Thai students. The party was Halloween-themed as their last day in Taiwan also coincided with the pumpkin carving day. The lodging where they spent their nights in Taiwan was used as the location and students got to dress up in fun spooky costumes to enhance the fun.



*Celebrating Halloween with a costume party*



*A snap with the iconic library of Providence University*

As the trip came to an end, students got to learn more about Taiwan and its culture. Different from what a usual trip would offer, the immersion program helped students to have a deeper experience of Taiwan, leading to a better cultural understanding of the country. Additionally, they also could practice what they had learned in class immediately through various encounters with the locals.